

Susana Witt Giles was born in Heber on May 16, 1861, daughter of John W. and Lovina B. Witt. They were among the first settlers in the valley during the fall of 1859.

As a young girl, Susana learned to sew from her mother. She was active in the Church as a youth and was the first secretary-treasurer of the MIA. She also was a teacher in the Sunday School.

At an early age she learned the skills of homemaking, and would card bats for quilts and do sewing for her trousseau. She also made hand-woven carpets for the floor of their home.

At the age of 16 she would make butter and carry it in 12- or 15-pound basket loads to the market.

Her mother was a sister-in-law of President Brigham Young and often took the children to Salt Lake during the summer for visits at the Lion House. Susana loved these trips and remembered sitting on the lap of that prophet.

Her parents were father and mother to 13 children, and Susana had many responsibilities in the home.

At the age of 17 she was selected by a

traveling theater troop as the most attractive girl in attendance at he play.

When 19 years of age, she was married to Heber J. Giles in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. The date was December 2, 1880. Prior to their marriage, Heber had begun a five-room home, but didn't have it finished. However, they lived in it during the winter and then finished plastering and building the home when good weather came.

After they had been married six years, Heber was called on a mission to Great Britain. He left his wife and three children, including a baby only nine days old, to serve in that mission field for two years. After he returned, in 1888, two more boys were born. He had been home only four years when a heart attack claimed his life. The youngest of his five children was then only three weeks old.

Susana sorrowed at his death, and had many trying times adjusting to her new life along with her children, but she reconciled herself to life and determined her family would be cared for. They were known in Heber as an extremely happy family.

She took in sewing and began dressmaking to support her children. Her faith in the administrations of the priesthood helped her through many times of illness as the children grew.

As her children matured they helped their mother and spared her as many worries as possible.